

Join Me for A Town Hall Gathering

I would like to talk with you regarding the issues before us in the Legislature. Please join me and special guests Rep. Dan Roach and Sen. Stephen Johnson on Saturday, Feb. 23 for a brief presentation followed by a question and answer session. If you are unable to attend, but would like to comment on the budget or any other issues, please call me at 1-800-562-6000 or e-mail me at cairnes_ja@leg.wa.gov

Sincerely,
Jack Cairnes
State Representatives



**Join me, and special guests
Rep. Dan Roach and Sen. Stephen Johnson!
Saturday, Feb. 23**

10-11:30 a.m.
**Auburn School District
Administration Bldg.
915 4th Street NE, Auburn**

1-2:30 p.m.
**Black Diamond City Hall
25510 Lawson St.
Black Diamond**

2002 Legislative Information

I will attempt to keep you informed of the issues mentioned in this mailer and others that come before the 2002 Legislature.

If you would like to be updated on the happenings in the Legislature, please send a letter or E-mail to my office regarding your interest. I am allowed to respond to ALL requests from the citizens of the 47th District.

Thanks, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Jack
Jack

Rep. Jack Cairnes
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786-7858 or 1-800-562-6000
E-mail: cairnes_ja@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Jack Cairnes

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

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Rep. Jack Cairnes

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786-7858
1-800-562-6000
cairnes_ja@leg.wa.gov

Committees:
Finance
Criminal Justice & Corrections
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Legislative info on the Internet:
www.leg.wa.gov

A Look at 2002: 47th District Report

For the people of the 47th District: Auburn, Black Diamond, Covington, Kent, King County, Maple Valley, & Renton.

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all of you who responded to my legislative survey in November. Your comments and suggestions strengthen my resolve to reduce wasteful state spending, revitalize our local economy and, in turn, create and protect jobs for our families. I believe we can meet these goals if we work in a bipartisan manner in 2002.

In these uncertain times, partisanship must take a backseat to leadership. Together, we must work to protect taxpayers and vital state services such as public safety and education. That is my goal and it is never far from my mind.

Inside you will find a report on just a few of the topics that require our attention during the 60-day session which began January 14. Transportation solutions and the budget shortfall will again top the list, and those issues are discussed further in this newsletter. I have also included a summary of results from the survey I mailed to you in November.

If you have any other questions, please e-mail me at cairnes_ja@leg.wa.gov or call my office at (360) 786-7858 or 1-800-562-6000.

I'm honored to represent the citizens of the 47th District and always welcome your concerns, comments and questions.

Sincerely,

Jack Cairnes

Jack Cairnes, State Representative



Budget 2002: Protecting Citizens and Schools, Not Criminals

- ✓ Protect the people of this state
- ✓ Streamline government services
- ✓ Put politics aside
- ✓ Prioritize spending

Unfortunately, the 2002 executive budget proposal fails to adequately protect the citizens of Washington. It hurts schools, the elderly and poor the most, while softening penalties for criminals. This proposal by the governor is simply a starting point for negotiations, and I will not support it as written. Yes, we have economic struggles in this state, but the solution is simple: do what working families do when they fall on tough times – establish priorities, control spending and pay for essential needs.

This plan abandons schools and the needy...

The plan offered by the governor would reduce funding for K-12 education by \$29 million, including a \$14 million cut in block grants – discretionary money used by schools for what local officials deem to be the greatest need.

Other ways the governor proposes making up for a \$1.2 billion shortfall:

- Cuts in human services of \$235 million, including eliminating state assistance for disabled citizens;
- A \$35 million cut from nursing homes, as well as a \$34 million reduction in prescription drug assistance to low-income families and citizens on Medicaid; and
- A new multi-state lottery.

This budget proposal makes sure that education services for inmates would remain the same, despite the fact that the governor has opened the door for higher tuition rates for our law-abiding citizens.

While protecting criminals...

To shrink state expenses, the budget also proposes to:

- Let offenders out early from prison (drug and property crime offenders);
- Eliminate their community supervision once they are back on the street. (The Department of Corrections will then define drug and property crime offenders as low risk);
- Eliminate community supervision for those who have failed to pay court-ordered financial obligations such as restitution to crime victims; and
- Reduce the amount of time they will spend behind bars for a new conviction if they re-offend.

Transportation: Fix the Roads first

I propose a fundamental change in the way this states funds transportation. Let's make the commitment to spend two-thirds of our transportation budget on laying pavement – the roads that take you home to your family, to work and your other daily trips.

I recognize and understand the need for solutions to our state's transportation woes. However, I can't support the governor's plan in its current form.

The governor's statewide proposal includes:

- ✓ An incremental 9-cent gas tax hike
- ✓ 1.5 percent sales tax on new and used vehicles
- ✓ 20 percent gross weight surcharge on trucks
- ✓ A gross weight fee on motor homes



Regional Plan Update:

As I mentioned in my previous mailer, the 47th District would receive little or no relief under the proposed Regional Transportation Funding Plan. While the Alaskan Way viaduct and Interstate 5, and I-405 are important projects, the billions in expense would lead to sacrificing important projects in our community – such as the Maple Valley Highway and Kent-Kangley Road. I can't support any regional plan that sends 47th District taxpayers a bill for little or no congestion relief where WE need it most.

This plan does not protect the taxpayers of this state who use our roads. Over the past few years, the state has made a real commitment to fund a transit sysytem. Now, we need to maintain funding for transit, while placing an additional focus on adding roadways for both cars and buses. And, we need to make sure both these systems are accountable to you, the taxpayer. These vital issues must be part of any transportation funding discussions.

We need to re-evaluate our priorities or the traffic problems plaguing our state will never be solved. There is no debating that Washington needs continued funding for congestion relief. I take very seriously my responsibility to find ways to stretch the taxes you pay to maximize our investments.

2001 Survey Results

Many of you who responded to my November survey listed taxes as your top priority. And, you stated the people should have the final say on any new user fees or taxes for transportation in this state.

I agree and will work to protect public safety, education and the most vulnerable in Washington from service cuts. In this time of economic uncertainty, it's unfortunate some lawmakers are resorting to scare tactics and proposing budget cuts that will hurt our most needy citizens.

The following are the complete survey results. Thank you for your response as your opinions only help me better represent your interests in Olympia.

■ Your Legislative Priorities (in order of importance)

Transportation, Property Taxes, Schools, State Budget, Business Climate, Public Safety, Energy/Utilities, Government Regulation

■ Do You Support the Governor's Transportation Tax Package?

66% NO 34% YES

■ Who Should Decide on New Transportation Taxes?

68% The Voters 32% The Legislature



Page program offers valuable experience

Danielle Lee of Kent served as a page for Rep. Jack Cairnes in 2001.

Young people between the ages of 14 and 17 from across the state have come to Olympia to serve as legislative pages.

If you know a young person who is interested, you may contact my office or visit the following website:
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/hadm/pageform.htm>